



# PICOIDES

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Brant in field, Portmarrock, Dublin, Ireland in February 2009. Photo by Oscar J Merne.

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## Editor's Message

Welcome to the second issue of *Picoides* of 2010! I hope everyone had a great spring.

I would like to welcome aboard Marcel Gahbauer as co-editor of *Picoides*. Discussions are underway to make *Picoides* a more contemporary publication. A possibility is an e-newsletter. We hope to have a decision on the format and content of *Picoides* in the next few months. We will continue to publish articles, photos, notices, poems, thesis abstracts, news items related to SCO-SOC and Canadian ornithology.

The e-newsletter format is very common these days. For example, Nature Canada, Nature Alberta, and Birds Studies Canada are just a few of many organizations using e-newsletters as a key communications tool. Later this year, Marcel and I would welcome feedback on the reformatted *Picoides*, whether the feedback is bouquets, bricks or both.

We congratulate Susan Hannon on receiving the Doris Huestis Speirs Award. We also congratulate the following students on their 2010 SCO-SOC scholarship awards: Marie-Hélène Burle of Simon Fraser University (Fred Cooke Award); Amanda Edworthy of UBC (Junco Technologies Award); Kyle Elliot of University of Manitoba (James L. Baillie Award); Greg Mitchell of University of Guelph (Taverner Award); and Ann McKellar of Queen's University (Taverner Award).

Inside this issue is an interesting paper on 'Canadian' birds in Ireland, several new Canadian theses in ornithology and other ornithological notices and features. The online educational birding skills website *Dendroica* is especially worth checking out. President Nol in her message in this issue discusses the unique and necessary SCO-SOC role in bird conservation and the need to work closely with other ornithological societies and environmental organizations to effect positive change.

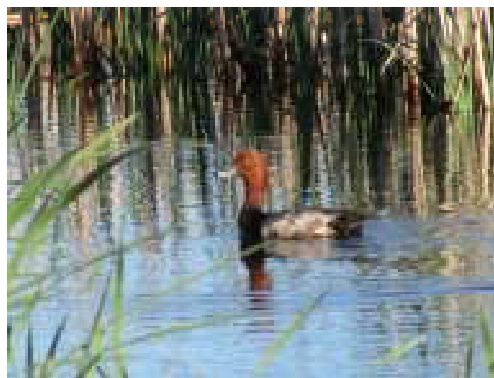
Before we close, I would like to remind everyone that i) *Picoides* is not a peer-reviewed journal, (ii) publication of an article in *Picoides* does not imply endorsement by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and iii) the editor relies on authors to submit accurate, honest and error-free (as much as possible) submissions.

Please take note of photo submission guidelines and the disclaimer. On a final note, we need all members to continue to submit material and we welcome your feedback to improve *Picoides*. After all, it is your publication. We look forward to hearing from you. Have a safe, wonderful summer and fall!

Cheers,

Rob Warnock and Marcel Gahbauer  
*Picoides* Co-editors

Redhead Drake. Photo by Jeff Gleason.





### Attention Photographers - Submission Guidelines!



Lesser Yellowlegs enjoying the open water at the sewage lagoon in Inuvik, NWT. . Photo by Jason Straka.

To assist the *Picoides* editor with managing photo submissions, please do the following:

- Use tiff or jpeg file format
- Minimize file size while maintaining photo quality. This helps keep overall file size down and speed up downloads
- Use descriptive file names. Generic file names from photo software are not very helpful.
- Supply captions for all photos. Good captions include common names of species, names of people, locations, activities, behaviours and dates and very importantly photo credit.

Your submissions are greatly appreciated and always welcome.

Rob Warnock and Marcel Gahbauer, Co-editors of *Picoides*

### SCO meeting 2011 - Moncton, NB - 4-6 August

Mark your calendars! The 2011 meeting of our Society will be held in Moncton just in time to catch the first big wave of Semipalmated Sandpipers migrating through the Bay of Fundy. We are looking forward to seeing you!

### Congrès de la SOC 2011 - Moncton, NB - 4-6 août

Marquez vos calendriers! Le congrès 2011 de notre Société aura lieu à Moncton juste à temps pour apercevoir la première vague migratoire de Bécasseaux semipalmés dans la baie de Fundy. Nous vous attendons avec impatience!

### *Picoides* Disclaimer

*Picoides* is not a peer-reviewed journal and the publication of an article in *Picoides* does not imply endorsement by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. Rob Warnock and Marcel Gahbauer, *Picoides* Editors.

### PLEASE NOTE THE *PICOIDES* DEADLINES!

Deadlines are February 15, May 15 and October 15. Submissions should be sent to [warnockr@accesscomm.ca](mailto:warnockr@accesscomm.ca).



### President's Notes

Erica Nol, President, SCO-SOC.

I was speaking with a colleague at a recent ornithological meeting, and he mentioned that he thought that the Society of Canadian Ornithologists/Société des Ornithologistes du Canada (SCO/SOC) served its most vital role just after it was formed in response to the obligation for any nation who wished to host the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) to have a national society. This was in 1983 in preparation for the IOC held in Ottawa, Ontario in 1986. My colleague intimated that, after that time, our organization should have rightly been dissolved. I beg to differ. Since that IOC, and especially, since our first stand-alone meeting, held in Fredericton, New Brunswick in 1996, the SCO/SOC has had a long, satisfying and enduring history.



Rock Ptarmigan. Photo by Jason Straka.

Recent discussion about merging all North American ornithological societies in response to generally declining memberships has interestingly, triggered a response (sometimes quite lively) among the smaller North American societies to re-evaluate their mandate and function. I think that in general, the smaller societies have agreed that through their meetings, awards and publications, they provide a valuable service for their student and professional members. This is no less true for our society. I have heard many a Canadian ornithologist say that our stand-alone meetings have been the most productive and enjoyable of their ornithological careers. High participation rates by graduate students, in part because of more affordable registration and accommodation costs than those at larger meetings, mean an opportunity for these students to know in advance most of their future colleagues once they graduate into full-time careers in government, consulting and academia. And, the culture of ornithological research in Canada is distinct from that in the United States. This alone warrants a national organization. Although this is changing, especially in the last few years, our federal funding system has allowed a high proportion of scientists with interests in ornithology to participate actively in research. This greater participation is reflected in disproportionate representation of Canadian researchers in publications like the *Auk* and *Condor*, as well as disproportionate representation in the awards from all of the North American societies. For example, in Volume 111 (2009) of the *Condor*, nearly 19% (16 of 85) of feature articles and short communications were provided by authors at Canadian institutions; this, despite the obvious growing participation of researchers outside of Canada and the United States (i.e., the greater internationalization of the Cooper Society). So, our expected contribution to the ornithological literature, based on population size alone, is significantly less. This reflects the health of ornithology in Canada.

Finally, without a strong SCO/SOC we would not have the generous establishment of 6 (or more) awards for lifetime achievement, research, travel and mentorship that we provide to Canadians each year. The research awards are financially on par with those offered by the larger societies, and the Jamie Smith Mentorship Award is unique among North American societies, and well appreciated by its recipients over its 4-year history. The growth in these awards through donations confirms the confidence that Canadian ornithologists have in our national organization. In the next few weeks I will send along a request for additional donations for all 6 funds, so that we can continue to award excellence in ornithology in our large, but small country. I will also send along a note to lapsed members to encourage you to renew your membership. For young professionals, a valuable way to do this is to consider Life Membership (\$500.00). Although still not in place, one of our immediate actions for the coming year is to try to provide an easier, online way to renew. We hope to have this option in place in the next few months.





## 2010 SCO-SOC Student Award Recipients

Ian Warkentin, Chair of the SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee

The SCO-SOC Student Awards Committee wishes to congratulate the five 2010 SCO-SOC Student Award winners. We received many outstanding applications across Canada. I thank the other members of the committee this year: Colleen Barber (St. Mary's University), Liana Zanette (University of Western Ontario) and Mark Drever (University of British Columbia) for their contribution.

Below are the 2010 SCO-SOC Student Award Recipients with brief summaries of their research and their biographies.

### Fred Cooke Award

Ms. Marie-Hélène Burle

Centre for Wildlife Ecology – Dept. Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University,  
e-mail: msb2@sfu.ca

#### Thesis Title:

Mating system and breeding ecology of the Tuamotu Sandpiper *Prosobonia cancellata*

#### Biography:

After graduation in 2001 from Montpellier II University (France) and Laval University (Québec), Marie-Hélène Burle worked on many bird and mammal projects around the world from the High Arctic in Barrow, AK, to tropical islands and Brazil. She also spent 31 months on two sub-antarctic islands in the company of Elephant Seals, Fur Seals, Killer Whales and hundreds of thousands of seabirds collecting long term demographic data, as well as data on albatross and penguin at sea foraging trips for the CNRS (Crozet Island, South Indian Ocean) and data on introduced mice threatening the critically endangered Tristan Albatross for the RSPB (Gough Island, South Atlantic Ocean). In 2007, she went back to school to start an MSc at Simon Fraser University, in Vancouver, BC, on the endangered and never studied Tuamotu Sandpiper of French Polynesia (South Pacific Ocean).

#### Thesis/Project Summary:

The Tuamotu Sandpiper *Prosobonia cancellata* is the last extant species of a virtually unknown radiation of tropical non-migratory shorebirds of the South Pacific Ocean. Once common throughout the Tuamotu Archipelago (French Polynesia), the species is now restricted to four uninhabited atolls and is classified by the IUCN as endangered. The aim of this project is to collect data on the natural history of this never studied species (1) to better understand behavioural and ecological adaptations to a sedentary lifestyle and to breeding on tropical food-poor islands (the ancestor species, as most sandpipers, probably was a long distance migrant breeding in the Arctic and wintering in the South Pacific) and (2) to help build recommendations that will be used by conservation agencies to restore its status.



Marie-Hélène Burle with a Tuamotu Sandpiper chick (first chicks found for the species since Peale in 1839). Photo by Caleb Ashling.



#### Junco Technologies Award

Ms. Amanda Edworthy, University of British Columbia Forest Sciences Centre,  
e-mail: amanda.edworthy@gmail.com

#### Project Title:

The dynamic lives of tree cavities: a demographic analysis of cavity persistence and reuse.

#### Biography:

I am an MSc student at the University of British Columbia with Dr. Kathy Martin at the Centre for Applied Conservation Research. My introduction to ecology was an undergraduate thesis examining the habitat use and movement patterns of the endangered Oregon forest snail, *Allogona townsendiana*. My first ornithological work, with the British Columbia Coastal Waterbird Survey, impressed me with the diversity and accessibility of birds for research. I am currently conducting fieldwork in interior British Columbia studying the factors influencing tree cavity persistence and reuse by cavity-nesting birds and mammals for nesting.

#### Thesis/Project Summary:



Tree cavities are a critical nesting and shelter resource for more than 40 species of cavity-nesting birds and mammals, or about 30% of forest vertebrate biodiversity, in interior BC, Canada. Cavity quality is emerging as an important factor shaping patterns of reuse by communities of cavity-nesters in both temperate and tropical ecosystems. Despite an apparent abundance of cavities, nest box additions result in increased cavity-nester densities. Cavities are a dynamic resource that changes in abundance and quality as they are created, destroyed, and modified by decay, excavators, and predators. In order to maintain stability in the cavity-nester community, a long-term balance in rates of cavity creation to offset cavity destruction is necessary. Application of demographic concepts to populations of tree cavities enables me to quantify cavity persistence and reuse rates and to refine our ideas about factors influencing cavity quality.

Amanda Edworthy inspecting a 12 m Red-naped Sapsucker nest cavity in interior British Columbia. Photo by Amy Koch.

#### James L. Baillie Award

Mr. Kyle Elliott, Department Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba, e-mail: urialomvia@gmail.com

#### Thesis Title:

How can birds work hard and live long?

#### Biography:

I spent my youth birding in the Vancouver area before completing a BSc in Physics and Math at UBC. Having come to my senses, I moved into ornithology and completed a MSc at the University of Manitoba. I currently hold a Vanier Scholarship for my Ph.D. at the University of Manitoba under supervisors Jim Hare and Gary Anderson. In between, I have worked on birds from the tropics of Peru and Panama to eight different islands in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.



#### Thesis/Project Summary:

According to the oxidative stress theory of aging, senescence occurs through an accumulation of oxidative damage as a by product of metabolism. This theory is supported by an inverse correlation between metabolic rate and lifespan among species. Charadriiform seabirds are exceptions because they have long life spans despite high sustained metabolic rates. Furthermore, a recent study in a procellariiform seabird showed no decline in basal metabolic rate (BMR) with age (Moe et. al. 2007), unlike mammals and short-lived birds. To examine how metabolism changes with age in wild, known-age Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*) and Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), I propose to measure BMR, field metabolic rate and plasma triiodothyronine (T3) levels, as T3 is the main hormone controlling metabolic rate. I hypothesize that BMR and aerobic scope will decline with age and T3 will become decoupled with BMR in older birds. My study will provide insight into whether metabolism is strategically adjusted through life and whether there is decay in its regulation later in life for two species of Charadriiform seabirds during the particularly energetically expensive chick-rearing period.



Kyle Elliot (centre) taking a blood sample from a Thick-billed Murre at Coats Island. Photo by Birgit Braune.

#### Taverner Award

Mr. Greg Mitchell

Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph, e-mail: mitchelg@uoguelph.ca

#### Thesis Title:

Factors that limit the individual success of migratory songbirds during autumn migration

#### Biography:

Greg Mitchell completed his Bachelor's Honours Degree in Environmental Science at the University of Guelph in 2004. In 2007, he earned his MSc in Biology from Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, where he investigated the effects of harvested land cover on the movements of juvenile songbirds during the post-fledging period in Northwestern Newfoundland. This research was completed under the supervision of Dr. Phil Taylor (Acadia University) and Dr. Ian Warkentin (Memorial University) and has recently been published in the Auk, Avian Conservation and Ecology, and is under review at the Condor.



Greg Mitchell assembling a four-element yagi telemetry antenna on Kent Island, New Brunswick. Photo by Damon Gannon.

#### Thesis Project Summary:

Currently, Greg is completing his Ph.D. in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph, under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Norris and Dr. Chris Guglielmo (University of Western Ontario). His research takes place at the Bowdoin Scientific Research Station, New Brunswick, where he is investigating the links between breeding season events, body condition, and migratory behavior in a breeding population of Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). His fieldwork involves using a novel digital telemetry array comprised of four fully automated towers to track timing of departure and departure orientation during autumn migration.





#### Taverner Award

Ms. Ann McKellar, Department of Biology, Queen's University, e-mail: ann.mckellar@queensu.ca

#### Thesis Title:

The influence of inter-annual variation in winter climate on the migratory timing and behaviour of American Redstarts.

#### Biography:

I completed my BSc (Honours) at Queen's University, where I became excited and intrigued by evolution and animal behaviour. I went on to complete my Master's at McGill University with Dr. Andrew Hendry as my supervisor. For this project, I studied the causes of sex ratio variation in natural populations of Trinidadian guppies. For my PhD, I decided to return to my alma mater, Queen's University, to work with Dr. Laurene Ratcliffe. I am currently exploring how climate influences the phenology and behaviour of a long-distance migratory bird.

#### Thesis/Project Summary:

Many bird species are experiencing changes in the timing of their annual cycles, most likely due to climate change. Increasing temperatures are thought to be causing birds to arrive earlier on the breeding grounds and lay eggs earlier. Climate variation might also affect population demography, which in turn could influence behaviour and sexual selection. Using long-term datasets from two breeding populations and additional data that I will collect, I am addressing two questions related to how inter-annual variation in climate influences a North American migratory warbler, the American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). First, I am investigating whether winter climate influences patterns of arrival and egg-laying on the breeding grounds. Second, I am examining associations between winter climate and sex ratio on the breeding grounds and how these might influence breeding behaviour. Despite a recent flurry of research on climate change and avian phenology, most studies have focused on European species. This study will not only highlight the potential significance of climate variation in a North American migratory species, but it will also be one of few studies to examine associations between climate variation and mating systems.



Ann McKellar holding a Darwin's finch in the Galápagos. Photo supplied by Ann McKellar.



**2010 Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Outstanding Contributions to Canadian Ornithology  
Dr. Susan Hannon**



Susan Hannon. Photo courtesy of Susan Hannon.

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. It is with great pleasure that the SCO-SOC presents the 2010 Doris Huestis Speirs Award to Dr. Susan Hannon.

Susan is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta. She retired in 2008 after a 30-year career devoted to Canada's birds. Over this time, Susan produced a large and influential body of research, which can be divided into two major themes in avian population ecology. The first theme centers on the population dynamics, behaviour, mating systems and life history of grouse. Notably, Susan focused much of her effort on the role of the female in population regulation and mating system maintenance, this at a time when most research was on the more conspicuous male. Over the last decade, Susan's research focus turned to the ecology and conservation of boreal birds. In particular, she concentrated on how resident and migratory bird species respond to habitat loss and fragmentation. The results of this research have helped to change the face of industrial practices in Canada's boreal forest to the benefit of its birds.

Susan's contributions to Canadian ornithology extend well beyond her research. Over her career, Susan trained 30 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and countless undergraduate students. These trainees, in turn, have gone on to influential positions at universities, government and NGOs. Most remain close friends and collaborators, testimony to Susan's personal as well as professional influence.

Susan has also generously served the ornithological community both in Canada and abroad. She has held executive positions in the SCO-SOC, serving as President, Vice-President, and Councillor, as well as participating on numerous committees over the years. She also served as the Chair and a member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congresses. She is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union and has served the AOU in several capacities. Susan's contributions have continued into her retirement, where she now volunteers her time with the Garry Oak Restoration Project, Islands Trust and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy.

In closing, it is an honour to present Dr. Susan Hannon with the 2010 Doris Huestis Speirs Award. Susan is an outstanding ornithologist and a generous and visionary colleague who has had an enduring influence on ornithologists across our country and abroad.

The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee for 2010 included Mark Brigham, Bob Clark, Greg Robertson and Marty Leonard (chair).



### **Request for Involvement in SCO-SOC Student Affairs Committee**

At the joint AOU/COS/SCO meeting in San Diego, a few students expressed interest in forming a Student Affairs Committee within the SC-SOC. By forming a student committee, we hope to increase the involvement of students both within the society and at annual meetings. The group will likely function much like the student committees in the AOU and COS, where members will have the opportunity to design and organize activities for upcoming meetings, convey student concerns to the SCO, and facilitate student access to resources (e.g., funding for research and travel to conferences). If you are a student, or know of any students that may be interested in participating in the student affairs committee, we strongly encourage you to please contact Andrea Norris: [arnorris@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:arnorris@interchange.ubc.ca).

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### **The 5th North American Ornithological Conference, Vancouver, BC, August 2012**

14 - 18 August, 2012 NAOC V - The 5th North American Ornithological Conference (NAOC), organized jointly by the American Ornithologists' Union, Society of Canadian Ornithologists/ Société des Ornithologistes du Canada, Bird Studies Canada, Association of Field Ornithologists, Cooper Ornithological Society, Raptor Research Foundation, Sección Mexicana del Consejo Internacional para la Preservación de las Aves [CIPAMEX], Waterbird Society, and Wilson Ornithological Society, will be held at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

It is the first time the NAOC will be held in Canada. Information about past NAOC meetings, including the 2006 NAOC meeting in Veracruz, Mexico on the AOU meetings website <http://www.aou.org/meetings/>.

The 4 day scientific program (15-18 August) will be preceded by annual and council meetings of most of the ornithological societies, and scientific and ENGO workshops. Opening reception on the evening of 14 August. Field trips will be offered before and after the scientific program. A Steering Committee for NAOC-V has been formed with representatives from each of the participating ornithological groups and is engaged in the conference planning details. For more information, contact Dr. Kathy Martin, Chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements ([kathy.martin@ubc.ca](mailto:kathy.martin@ubc.ca)).



Hairy Woodpecker. Photo by Rob Wilson



## Theses in Canadian Ornithology

Falk, Karla J. 2010. Spatial patterns of forest bird nests in a fragmented and continuously-forested landscape. MSc Thesis. Trent University, Peterborough, ON.

I explored within-patch variation in nest-site placement, nest predation and brood parasitism for multiple species, across several study sites in both a fragmented and continuously forested landscape in Ontario, Canada. Spatial analysis revealed distinct, fine-scale (30-100 m radius) clustering of nests only in the fragmented landscape. This clustering was associated with variation in habitat for the Wood Thrush, but for other species and across species clustering was not associated with vegetative heterogeneity. Nest predation was distributed randomly within study sites in both landscapes, including with respect to anthropogenic edges, suggesting that diverse and abundant predator communities may preclude the existence of enemy-free space. Brood parasitism was only present in the fragmented landscape, and was positively influenced by the proportion of agricultural habitats surrounding nests. This likely reflects the importance of nearby feeding areas for optimal cowbird breeding habitat. Overall, the results of this thesis suggest that even at fine spatial scales, spatial patterns exist in nest placement and may be linked to habitat quality for some species, particularly in fragmented landscapes.



Juvenile Wood Thrush. Photo by Ross Kresnik

Hamilton, Laura E. 2010. Effects of natural gas development on three grassland bird species in CFB Suffield, Alberta, Canada. MSc Thesis. Department of Biology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB.



Photo: Holly Kalyn-Bogard

Natural gas development in prairie. Photo by: Holly Kalyn-Bogard.

I investigated the effect of energy sector development and introduced crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*) on grassland birds on Canadian Forces Base Suffield. I conducted point counts and mapped breeding territories in 2007 and 2008 for Savannah Sparrows (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Chestnut-collared Longspurs (*Calcarius ornatus*), and Sprague's Pipits (*Anthus spragueii*). I found that Savannah Sparrows favoured areas with taller vegetation, human disturbances and crested wheatgrass in both years. Longspurs used shorter vegetation and were intolerant of disturbance. Crested wheatgrass was avoided by longspurs in both years. Pipits had territories containing similar vegetation to longspur territories, were sensitive to disturbance, and avoided placing territories in areas containing crested wheatgrass or trails in

both years. Well sites, pipelines and junctions were not avoided by the three species. My research suggests that reducing the number of trails and the spread of crested wheatgrass will increase habitat availability for sensitive species of grassland birds.





Ogle, Susanna. 2010. Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) equalize nestling quality by adjusting resources to later-laid eggs. Honours Thesis. Department of Biology, University of Alberta, Edmonton. AB.

Lack's (1947) brood reduction hypothesis claims that female birds consistently lay broods too large to raise in an average year, due to a lack of available food resources. Large broods are laid only to capitalize on those rare years when resources are plentiful enough to raise additional young. While Lack originally made this prediction for non-passerine and large passerine birds only, the brood reduction hypothesis has recently been used to explain brood size in Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), a small passerine bird (Forbes et. al. 2001, Forbes et. al. 2002). If Red-winged Blackbirds use a brood reduction strategy, we would expect to see a decrease in resources allocated to later-laid eggs in order to create a strict dominance hierarchy among the offspring. If Red-winged Blackbirds use a brood survival strategy, we would expect to see increased maternal resources to later-laid eggs in order to help equalize the offspring with their earlier hatching siblings. For my undergraduate honours thesis in evolutionary biology I evaluated six egg metrics (i.e. egg length, egg breadth, egg-shell thickness, total mass, yolk mass, and biliverdin concentration) across the laying sequence to determine patterns of resource allocation in red-winged blackbird clutches. Biliverdin, a blue-green pigment laid down on the outer-most portion of the egg shell was of particular interest due to its potential to signal nestling health to parents, as seen in other passerine species (Moreno et. al. 2006, Hanley et. al. 2008, Lopez-Rull 2008). Eggs were collected from wetlands east of Edmonton, Alberta from May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Twenty-seven full clutches were collected, each clutch containing 2 -5 eggs for a total of 92 eggs. Biliverdin concentration was quantified by performing a pigment extraction on the eggshells using a 2:1 solution of methanol 5 M hydrochloric acid (procedure adapted from Wang et. al. 2007) and measuring absorbance at 670nm. All metrics measured varied significantly according to position in the laying sequence, trending upwards across the laying sequence, except biliverdin concentration and eggshell thickness. These results suggest that a) biliverdin may not be a valuable maternal resource in red-winged blackbirds as it is not differentially allocated across the laying sequence like the other metrics studied, and b) red-winged blackbirds may use a brood survival strategy.



Female Red-winged Blackbird at Loughborough Lake, ON. Photo by Frode Jacobsen

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Tozer, Douglas C. 2010, Quality of selection-logged and unlogged forests for breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Ph.D. Thesis. Trent University, Peterborough, ON.

I tested hypotheses concerning the effects of food, nest predation, and nest sites on habitat quality for breeding Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (*Sphyrapicus varius*) in selection-logged and unlogged hardwood forest stands in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario. I focused on this species because its abundant nest holes and sap wells provide shelter and food, respectively, for several other animals. Nest predation by American Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*) negatively influenced reproductive success in tolerant hardwood stands 1–25 years following selection logging, whereas nest predation by bears was much less prevalent within tolerant hardwood stands >60 years post-harvest and within unlogged intolerant hardwood stands. Nest-tree limitation in logged stands may have caused the pattern, because with fewer high-quality choices sapsuckers may have been unable to find ideal sites, and as a result excavated in softer wood, which made nests vulnerable to predation by black bears. From 1–5 years post-harvest, when ideal nest trees were most limited, predation by bears was common enough (~50%) that population growth was likely negative. Sapsuckers preferred 1–5 year cuts, however, making them ecological traps. Increasing high-quality nest trees in 1–5 year cuts may increase the proportion of nests excavated in bear-resistant substrates, which will reduce nest predation and increase fecundity. Fecundity was highest in >60 cuts followed closely by unlogged intolerant stands; I speculate that the difference may be caused by delayed egg-laying as a result of lower-quality sap resources in unlogged intolerant stands. I also reviewed literature across several species to assess whether simultaneously increasing food and reducing predation as a conservation strategy to increase fecundity is more effective for populations of animals that produce a single brood or litter followed by a non-breeding period versus populations that produce multiple broods or litters one after the other. Given that the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is single-brooded, any positive response to a strategy that increases food and reduces nest predation will be smaller, and take longer, than if it were multi-brooded. My thesis illustrates the advantages of simultaneously assessing the effects of the most important ecological factors limiting reproductive success.



Doug Tozer monitoring the contents of one of over 300 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nests in Algonquin Provincial Park, ON. Photo by Ron Tozer.



## Dendroica: An Aid to Identifying North American Birds

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*Dendroica* Home Page. Photo courtesy of Charles Francis, Canadian Wildlife Service.

Environment Canada has recently released Dendroica, an interactive website developed to help students, volunteers and professionals improve their skills at identifying birds by sight or by sound, particularly so that they can participate in nature survey and monitoring programs ([www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica](http://www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica)). The website was developed by the bird survey group in the Canadian Wildlife Service, which is also responsible for coordinating the Breeding Bird Survey and the Bird Banding Office, with additional support from the USGS Breeding Bird Survey and from CONABIO in Mexico. The site includes separate modules for Canada, the USA, and Mexico and features multiple photographs and sound recordings of each species. Users can select a list of species to study – either the whole country, or a subset of species based on geography, taxonomy or song types, or they can create their own lists of species. A particularly helpful feature of the program is a quiz option, that lets people test themselves on songs, photos or both. The program randomly selects from the available recordings / photos for each species, helping birders to understand some of the variation in each species. Even for birders who already know their species well, it is always helpful to brush up on some of the songs before heading out to start field surveys.

I would like to invite SCO-SOC members to try out the program and also to help make it better. The program is set up so that participants can contribute new photographs and sound recordings to fill gaps and expand coverage. We currently have photos and sound recordings for nearly all regularly breeding Canadian birds, but we are lacking material for many of the non-breeding visitors. For USA species we have somewhat more gaps, and for Mexican species we still have many gaps. Even for species for which we do have material, we often lack variety. Ideally, we would like photos to illustrate all the different plumages (adult, immature, male, female, etc. if they differ), different angles (birds in flight) and life stages



including nests with eggs or young. We would like good quality photos that are well exposed and sharply focussed—some of our current photos are not ideal, and we would like to replace them if we can get better photos. Note that use of a good photo editing program can often improve exposure and lighting dramatically (including for reducing shadows or highlights). Of course, if the photo is out of focus, it is usually better to take a new photo. In most cases, the photo can also benefit from being reframed—web publication does not require the full resolution of modern digital cameras and the photo can often be cropped so the bird can be seen in more detail. Further instructions are on the website.

We are also interested in getting more sound recordings, especially for species with a lot of geographic or individual variation in their songs. The best way to get to know the songs of birds is to hear many different recordings, and Dendroica is designed to display this. Recordings of call notes are also wanted – again, several different examples can help. As with photos, recordings usually require some editing to select out part of the recording with minimal background noise and to balance the sound levels. In some cases, it is even possible to remove background hiss with an appropriate sound editor. Sound recordings should be converted to .mp3 format when they are submitted, but editing should be done in the original uncompressed format to avoid loss of quality. As much as possible, we'd like recordings with minimal background noise, including minimal sounds from other species in the background. For somebody trying to learn a bird song, it can be quite confusing if there are several species singing at once, especially if it is not clear which is the main species.

You can also help by reviewing the photos and sound recordings that are already in Dendroica, and letting us know if you find any mistakes or problems or have suggestions for other improvements. We have tried to review all of the photos and sound recordings before they were published, but with over 4500 images and 4300 sound recordings so far, it is easy to make mistakes. A big advantage of a web application is that we can fix mistakes as soon as we find out about them (we have fixed a number since first release!).

If you would like to contribute to the site, please follow the instructions on the “Contribute” section of the website (you need to be registered and logged in to see that option). If you have any questions, or any problems contributing, you can use the “Contact Us” link on the Dendroica home page, or simply e-mail me.

You can also help by promoting use of the site. If you are involved in teaching about birds, whether formally through a university ornithology class or a high school biology class, or in a less formal setting with naturalists' clubs, you might consider using Dendroica to help with teaching. Students could use this for self study, or it can be used in a classroom setting with a projector and sound system. Those who are starting to learn their birds might find be encouraged to use the Quiz interface to randomly select photographs, and then practice using a standard field guide to try to identify each species before checking the answers.

We are always interested in suggestions for ways to make the program better. Let us know what you think. I hope you find it useful.



Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Photo by Charles Francis, Canadian Wildlife Service.





## Bird Connections between Canada and Ireland

Stewart Holohan, 7 Portobello Road, Dublin 8, Ireland, E-mail: Stewart.Holohan@gmail.com

Twenty-eight species of Canadian breeding birds were recorded in Ireland before 1900 (Ussher and Warren 1900). At first many of these birds were thought to be escapes from Victorian-era collections, or specimens passed off by taxidermists as having been shot in Ireland to impress the guests of the large estates where the stuffed birds were exhibited in glass cases. However, most of the earlier species were later proved to be genuine vagrants.

In Irish ornithological literature (*Irish Bird Reports* 1954-2008) emphasis has always been put on rare misdirected migrants from the east coast of North America to South America migration routes. However, by far the most important connections on a biomass basis are those species breeding in north-east Canada, plus Greenland, and on a regular basis wintering in, or passing through Ireland on both northward, and southward migration (Wernham *et. al.* 2002; Delany *et. al.* 2009).

The total species and sub-species interconnections between the Nearctic (principally Canadian breeding birds) and Ireland is 107 species (Irish Rare Birds Committee, 2008), but the list is increasing every year. This is due to a number of factors: (1) increase in observer knowledge, (2) far superior optical equipment than was available in the past, (3) a great increase in the number of colour-banding and colour-flagging schemes, (4) satellite transmitter projects, (5) stable isotope analysis research, (6) shifts in the breeding distribution of some Canadian birds north-eastwards, including into west Greenland, for example Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*, Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*, Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*, Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*, and American Pipit *Anthus rubescens* (Boertmann 1994).

The Nearctic (especially Canadian) bird connections with Ireland can be very briefly summarised as follows, though a large number of species will fit into several categories.

(1) Regular migrants to and from Nunavut = **16 species**.

(2) Regular migrants to and from Greenland = **22 species**.

However, 19 of these species might also come from Nunavut. It is impossible to tell without bird banding, which has already proved that Ireland receives some species from both areas, e.g. Red Knot *Calidris canutus islandica*, Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres interpres*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, and Sanderling *Calidris alba*.

(3) Species that can, or do follow the potential northern route to Europe, i.e. from Nunavut to Quebec, to Labrador, to Greenland, to Iceland, to Ireland = **61 species**.

(4) Species that follow the east coast of North America tropical storm-influenced route to South America = **86 species**.

It is interesting to note that 103 of the Nearctic species, which have turned up in Ireland have also turned up on Sable Island, off Nova Scotia. This might indicate the potential origin of the North American east coast migrants that get deflected towards Ireland and Western Europe. As the birds get south of Bermuda the great circle distance to Ireland (4,870 km) is too great even for a wind-assisted small passerine. It is no problem for a fully fat-loaded shorebird (Castro *et. al.*, 1989; Gill *et. al.*, 2008; Woodley 2009).

(5) Species that potentially follow a route from south of Bermuda to the northeast due to tropical storms = **10 species**.

(6) Species that might originate from Nunavut, Quebec, or Newfoundland and Labrador = **2 species** (Common Loon *Gavia immer* and Pacific Loon *Gavia pacifica*).



The number of Common Loons that winter in Ireland, and Britain is considerably greater than the number known to nest in Iceland and Greenland (Boertmann 1994; Wernham *et al.* 2002). Pacific Loons have not been recorded in Ireland so far (although one probable record in January 2010 is being assessed), but have been recorded in Britain. The lack of records is most probably due to hundreds of bays, and islands, that have never been searched systematically where the large number of loons are wintering off the west coast of Ireland.

The connections between Canada and Ireland and Britain have already been proven by bird banding recoveries of 18 species (Dennis, 1981, 1987, 1990; Wernham *et al.* 2002).

The increasing use of colour banding, and colour-flagging by the Canadian Wildlife Service, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, International Wader Study Group, Irish Brent Goose Research Group, and the Irish National Parks and Wildlife Service is providing a continual stream of useful results.

Bird banding has also proved (Wernham *et al.* 2002) that some Irish and British seabirds visit the fishing grounds off Newfoundland, and eastern North America, e.g. Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*, and Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. The bird connections are not all one way as Ring-billed Gulls *Larus delawarensis*, and Kumlien's Gull *Larus glaucoides kumlieni* now occur in Ireland every winter. There is even a banding recovery of a Ring-billed Gull from Lake Champlain to Ireland. A Ring-billed Gull has interbred with a Common Mew Gull *Larus canus canus* in Northern Ireland.

There are a number of claims, backed up by photographs, of American Herring Gulls *Larus smithsonianus*, and Thayer's Gulls *Larus thayeri* in Ireland, but so far we have no specimens, feathers for stable isotope analysis, or banding recoveries.

To try to identify the potential area of origin of the misdirected North American east coast migrants, especially on southward migration, research was done on the literature concerning theoretical, and actual long-distance flight capabilities of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, seabirds and passerines (Gwinner 1990; Butler *et al.* 1997; Berthold *et al.* 2003; Gill *et al.* 2005; Newton, 2008; Woodley 2009).

I have not been able to locate any studies using the new 1-2 gram satellite transmitters on the far out in the Atlantic southward migration of small passerines such as Blackpoll Warblers *Dendroica striata*, and Bobolinks *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Old radar studies give some indication of flight heights, total timing and southward routes used on their way to South America (McClintock *et al.* 1978; Chum 2006). It is from this southward migration that the vast majority of Canadian breeding birds get misdirected to Ireland, and western Europe in adverse weather conditions from mid-August to early November. Misdirected migrants do occur on the northward migration, but are far less frequent as most species migrate further west over the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean (Able 1999; Chum 2006; McLaren 2009).



Brant on Saltmarsh, North Bull Island, 5 km from city centre Dublin, Ireland.  
Photo by Oscar J. Merne.



For Canadian birds migrating southward, and getting deflected northeastwards offshore, the great circle route flight distance from Halifax (Nova Scotia) to Loop Head lighthouse (52°33'N 09°56'W) on the mid-west coast of Ireland is 3,940 km. This is well within the non-stop flight range of a fully fat-loaded waterfowl or shorebird (Castro *et. al.* 1989; Gill *et. al.* 2005; Woodley 2009). For small passerines the distance is possible (Able 1999; Chum 2006; Thorup *et. al.* 2006), but at the upper limit of their flight range capabilities, and wind assistance is essential. Blackpoll Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos *Vireo olivaceus* obviously have good long-distance flight range capabilities as they turn up on a regular basis in Ireland and western Europe. A small number of passerines are known to cross at least part of the Atlantic on ships. Various raptors have also been recorded on ships in mid-Atlantic, and actually killing seabirds on the ocean, and later eating them on the ship masts. A Gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* was filmed feeding on Dovekies *Alle alle* off fishing boats between Iceland and Ireland. Using such tactics on the northern Labrador and Greenland to Iceland route might explain how Canadian raptors have turned up in Ireland and Europe.

Comparison was made with the known migration times of shorebirds on the Canadian prairies (S. Holohan and J.B. Steeves mss.) and east coast Canada (McLaren 1981; Hicklin 1987), and for passerine migration from Canada to South America (Baird and Nisbet 1960; McClintock 1978; McLaren 1981 (a) and (b), Able 1999; Chum 2006; McLaren 2006; Thorup *et. al.* 2006). Most birds are misdirected to Europe, especially Ireland, and Britain, during their southward migration in the latter part of the hurricane season (September and October).

The timing of the Canadian breeding shorebird occurrences in Ireland indicates that most are probably first winter birds as the Nunavut breeding adults have reached South America one or two months earlier (Spaans 1978).

The common Canadian high Arctic nesting migrants that winter in or pass through Ireland are Light-bellied Brant *Branta bernicla hrota*, Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Ringed Plover, Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* (Delany *et. al.* 2009) and Northern Wheatear of the Greenland race *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa*. Their migration patterns have been proved by banding, colour banding, and flagging, and by satellite transmitter studies in the case of Light-bellied Brant. All these species use northern migration routes of varying complexity, but which usually include migration stops in Iceland and Greenland. There is a considerable amount of research at present being undertaken on these species. Some preliminary results have been published, including papers by Dr. Guy Morrison of the National Wildlife Research Centre in Ottawa.

By far the most important (on a biomass basis) Canadian birds wintering in Ireland are Light-bellied Brant (which are usually accompanied by a few Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*). Light-bellied Brant numbers have increased greatly in recent years, reaching >35,000 in winter 2008/09. In Ireland they are totally protected and so have become extremely tame. It is routine to see Brant flying low over Dublin City and feeding on grassy roadside parks within 50 m of speeding cars and pedestrians. On first arrival in autumn they feed predominantly on eelgrass *Zostera nana* and sea lettuce *Ulva lactuca*, but around November change to feeding on terrestrial grasses in parks, sports fields and golf courses. At dusk the Brant fly up to 10-15 km to the seashore, and roost overnight on sheltered waters or mudflats.

The next most important (on a biomass basis) Canadian birds in Ireland are the common small shorebird species Red Knot, Ruddy Turnstone, Ringed Plover and Purple Sandpiper (Delany *et. al.* 2009). Because these species also nest in Greenland, the exact ratio of Nunavut to Greenland birds in Ireland is unknown. Colour-banding and colour-flagging results are providing interesting data, and preliminary results have been published in the International Wader Study Group Bulletin.

One of the great unknowns of Canadian birds in Ireland is the exact status and migration phenology of the Greenland race of the Northern Wheatear. This species has a more extensive range in Canada than in Greenland. Greenland Wheatears occur in Ireland on both northward and southward migration, but their routes can only be speculated about until tiny transmitters can be fitted to individuals. One paper (Thorup *et. al.* 2006) theorises that many Greenland Wheatears take one very long (4,000-4,200 km) flight from Canada to North Africa on the southern migration. However, Greenland Wheatears have been



recorded in Ireland on both northward, and southward migration. Research on Northern Wheatears in the Canadian north would be a very useful project for some graduate student.

The numbers of Common Loons wintering in Ireland and Britain are far too large to represent the Iceland breeding population (Boertmann 1994; Wernham *et. al.* 2002). However, there are no banding recoveries or wing-tag sightings to prove the birds might come from Canada. Pacific Loons have recently turned up in Britain, so now a start has been made to search for them on the west coast of Ireland, where there is an abundance of suitable habitat.

Ian McLaren's papers over the past 30 years indicated what North American species would turn up in Ireland and Britain at some time in the future (McLaren 1981(a) and (b), 2006, 2009). Many of these have now been seen in Britain, where there are many thousands of observers, while many fewer of these species have been seen in Ireland, where there are only a few hundred observers, a minority of whom are in the west of Ireland where trans-Atlantic migrants are likely to make their first landfall.

### Summary

In summary, Ireland gets many birds from Canada and the rest of the North American continent because the prevailing winds are from the west and Ireland is well placed to be their first landfall. Probably only a small fraction of the Canadian species which survive the journey are recorded here, due to lack of observers, especially on the west coast of Ireland.

The Canadian breeding species recorded in Ireland can be summarised as follows: waterbirds = 23 species, raptors = 3 species, shorebirds = 27 species, gulls and terns = 9 species, and passerines = 42 species, and other = 3 species (*Sora Porzana carolina*, American Coot *Fulica americana*, Sandhill Crane *Grus Canadensis*).

### Acknowledgements

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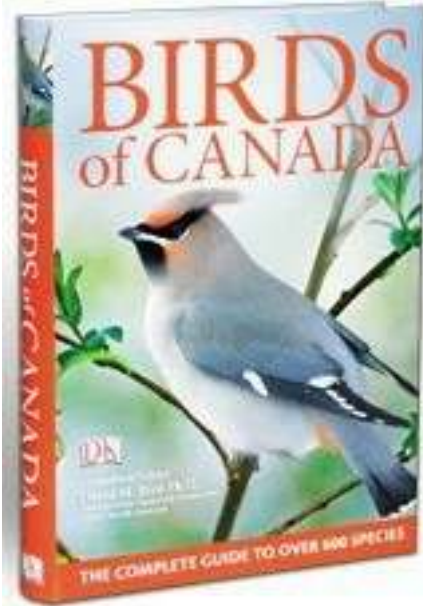


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## BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF CANADA. David M. Bird (Consulting Editor). 2010. Dorling Kindersley, New York, NY. Hardcover: \$40.00 CDN. ISBN: 978-1-55363-120-0. 528 pages. 23.0 by 13.3 cm.



The Birds of Canada incorporates aspects of bird identification, life history features, and behaviour in a comprehensive and attractive reference volume. In contrast, most other bird guides either focus on identification or behaviour, but not both. Birds of Canada contains full-page accounts for about 430 bird species common to Canada, quarter-page entries for 30 rare species, and very brief descriptions of about 150 vagrant species. This book covers Canada and its adjacent coastal waters. This book has the same format and organization as Dorling Kindersley's latest edition of Birds of North America 2.

Inside the Birds of Canada, the species entries are ordered by conventional classification. Before your first use of the book, I recommend reading the section titled 'How This Book Works' in the introduction. It expertly explains each portion of the species accounts in all sections of the book. Each bird family section in the species guide begins with a useful and colourful page introducing typical species in the family and their habitats.

The accounts for common 'Canadian' bird species are attractively arranged and full of useful and interesting natural history information. The information and photos are identical in the 430 species accounts common to both the Birds of Canada and the Birds of North America. I particularly like the large primary and smaller secondary photos and bird-in-flight illustrations, each with helpful key identifying features clearly marked. These photos illustrate species in different views and plumage variations, including subspecies, sex, adult/juvenile, and seasonal. All photos, illustrations and range maps are clear and sharp. The natural history characteristics of each species are neatly summarized in the text or in the bottom panel of the page. You can quickly learn the voice, nesting habits, feeding habits, range, flight patterns, occurrence, social system, wingspan, size, lifespan, mass, and conservation status for each species. These accounts also contain an additional photo that reveals typical habitat or behaviour. The natural history information presented here is accurate and up to date. Each species account has a very useful insert box containing one to three similar species, highlighting their differences. These boxes also state on what page in the book you can quickly find accounts of similar species.

The rare species accounts contain one excellent photo each with diagnostic features pointed out, common and scientific species and family names, a brief description of the species and information about occurrence in Canada, voice, and size. Vagrant species entries simply list common and scientific species names, bird family common and scientific names, and brief description of occurrence in Canada and where they come from.

The introduction to the Birds of Canada also includes the same two-page summaries of the following topics: avian evolution, anatomy and flight, bird migration, courtship and mating, nest and eggs and bird identification found in the Birds of the North America. These summaries are strongly supported by relevant and attractive colour photos and illustrations. The bird identification article was particularly insightful about the key identification features. An article on bird habitats would perhaps have been useful here, but was not included in this volume or in the Birds of North America.

The Table of Contents is very reader friendly with the species guide portion divided by the common name of bird families. Like the Birds of North America, the Birds of Canada concludes with an excellent three-page glossary of avian terms, a very useful detailed index, and photo credit acknowledgements. No



bibliography or further reading section was included in the volume, which is unfortunate for those readers who may want to learn more about the topics discussed.

A major reference guide that may be considered similar to the two Dorling Kindersley bird books is the Sibley Guide to Birds<sup>1</sup>. The Sibley Guide has smaller pages and exclusively uses the author's reprinted paintings to illustrate the birds. Sibley's guide does show more variations (adult/juvenile, gender, seasonal, regional) of bird species than both of the Dorling Kindersley bird books. However, in my opinion, Birds of Canada and the Birds of North America are both superior because of the larger illustrations, greater emphasis on natural history of bird species, and a more attractive and reader-friendly layout.

The publisher pitches the Birds of Canada as a bird guide. Although smaller than the very large and heavy Birds of North America, the Birds of Canada is still too large and heavy for regular use in the field. Instead, it is more of reference book that strongly complements existing bird field guides. The Birds of Canada has a less sturdy but more somewhat pliable binding compared to Birds of North America. Aside from a few minor deficiencies, this is a very useful and beautiful volume. If you do significant birding in the southern US, I recommend paying the extra \$15 plus tax for the Birds of North America for its complete continental coverage. However, I still highly recommend Birds of Canada to anyone who is a keen birder in Canada or wants to focus his or her learning on the common birds of Canada.

1 Sibley, David A. 2000. The Sibley Guide to Birds. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY.

2 Vuilleumier, François. 2009. Birds of North America. Dorling Kindersley, New York, NY.

Reviewed by Rob Warnock, E-mail: warnockr@accesscomm.ca

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#### **Lauren F. Rae and Greg W. Mitchell Awarded the 2009 Association of Field Ornithologists Best Student Paper Award**

Congratulations to Lauren F. Rae and Greg W. Mitchell (Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph) for jointly winning the Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO) best student paper award for 2009 for the paper entitled "Radio transmitters do not affect the body condition of Savannah Sparrows during the fall pre-migratory period" at the AFO annual meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Lauren and Greg, along with their co-authors Robert A. Mauck (Department of Biology, Kenyon College), Christopher G. Guglielmo (Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario), and D. Ryan Norris (Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph) used four measures of body condition to assess the effects of radio transmitters on the condition of both adult and juvenile Savannah Sparrows during the period between breeding and migration. Their results provide strong evidence that radio transmitters do not affect the body condition of this species during the pre-migratory period.



Savannah Sparrow. Photo by Frode Jacobsen.



Have you ever been to a night ballgame and in a quiet moment heard the strident calls of a Killdeer, then looked up to see the white breast of one flying high in the half-light-half-dark above the ball park lights. I have on numerous occasions and here use that vision in a bit of fantasy that might just have happened some time or other.

### Shadow Flight

Jerome A. Jackson

Listen. Listen. Oh hear, oh hear  
*Killdeer! Killdeer! Killdeer!*  
The moon so bright  
unwraps the night  
and the shadow flight  
of Killdeer.

Listen. Oh listen. The cry in the dark.  
The Killdeer flies above the lighted ballpark.  
The bases are loaded,  
Two strikes and three balls.

A hush falls.  
Two strikes and three balls,  
and the sentinel calls:  
*Killdeer! Killdeer! Killdeer!*

A crack of the bat. The ball flies high.  
For a moment the Killdeer shares his sky.  
Ball and bird, bird and ball,  
"Which is which?" the outfield call.  
The ball drops; the bird stops.  
Home run! The fans cheer!  
The bird flies -- a shadow flight and strident *Killdeer*  
*Killdeer! Killdeer!*



Killdeer. Photo by Frode Jacobsen.

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### BIRDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - SPECIES UPDATE

An updated account for **Clark's Grebe**, a peripheral breeding species in British Columbia, has just been published as a "Feature Species" in *Wildlife Afield* (Vol. 6, No. 1), the bi-annual journal of the Biodiversity Centre for Wildlife Studies.

The 66-page article includes summary information from 1985 to 2009 on distribution (including monthly maps), annual occurrence (including arrival and departure dates), breeding, feeding and diet, and conservation and management concerns since the original account was published in *The Birds of British Columbia* over two decades ago.

The account reveals that the **Clark's Grebe** (considered a full species since 1985) is a regular visitor to southern regions of the province and an irregular breeder at two locations. The authors recommend that the species should be elevated from the provincial "Yellow List" (*Not at Risk*) to the same ranking on the "Red List" as the endangered and threatened **Western Grebe**.

Nine other articles include topics on adaptive monitoring framework for northeastern warblers, new breeding locations for Semipalmated Plover, Arctic Tern, and Lazuli Bunting, unusual nest site for Brown Creeper, den sites for American Marten, a new distributional record for Lesser Goldfinch, and the potential impact of Eastern Gray Squirrels on nesting Rufous Hummingbirds.

All articles will be available on-line as PDF files in late summer 2010 at [www.wildlifebc.org](http://www.wildlifebc.org).





## En marche pour le second Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec!

Vingt-cinq ans après le début des travaux de terrain ayant mené à la publication du premier Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec (Gauthier et Aubry, 1995), le Québec revisite ce projet d'envergure. En effet, la campagne de terrain du nouvel Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec a débuté au printemps de 2010 et s'étendra sur plusieurs années (5 ans au moins). Le nouvel atlas permettra de mettre à jour les connaissances sur la répartition des oiseaux du Québec et de documenter les changements advenus depuis un quart de siècle.

L'objectif premier de l'atlas est de cartographier la répartition et l'abondance relative de toutes les espèces d'oiseaux qui nichent dans le Québec méridional, c'est-à-dire le territoire situé au sud de 50°30' N, qui compte plus de 5 000 parcelles de 10 km par 10 km. Par ailleurs, ce nouvel atlas devrait aussi permettre de recueillir de précieuses informations sur les oiseaux du Nord-du-Québec, plutôt méconnus, puisqu'il est prévu étendre le projet au Québec entier. L'impact que risque d'exercer les changements climatiques sur les oiseaux, en particulier ceux du Nord, justifie l'intention de couvrir l'ensemble du Québec. Toutefois, la tâche pour y parvenir sera titanesque, puisqu'il s'agit d'ajouter 11 000 parcelles d'inventaire aux 5 000 du Québec méridional!

La direction de l'Atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec est assurée par le Regroupement QuébecOiseaux, le Service canadien de la faune d'Environnement Canada et Études d'Oiseaux Canada. Deux personnes travaillent à temps plein à la réalisation de l'atlas : Michel Robert (coordonnateur) et Benoit Laliberté (adjoint à la coordination). Ces derniers sont épaulés par plusieurs personnes, qui contribuent grandement au projet.

Les instigateurs du projet espèrent que les observateurs d'oiseaux du Québec et d'ailleurs collaboreront en grand nombre à cette entreprise monumentale. Alors, si ce projet suscite votre intérêt, n'hésitez pas à visiter le [www.atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca](http://www.atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca).

## Le premier atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec sur DVD

*Les oiseaux nicheurs du Québec : atlas des oiseaux nicheurs du Québec méridional* est l'ouvrage de référence par excellence sur les oiseaux du Québec. L'édition française (Gauthier et Aubry, 1995) de ce livre étant épuisée, une version DVD (bilingue) a récemment été publiée afin de satisfaire la demande. Vous pouvez commander l'édition DVD, au coût de 19,95 \$ (taxes et frais postaux en sus), en visitant le [www.quebecoiseaux.org](http://www.quebecoiseaux.org) ou en communiquant avec le Regroupement QuébecOiseaux au 1 888 OISEAUX.

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## The second Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Quebec is all fired up and ready to go!

Twenty-five years after the start of fieldwork that led to the publication of the first Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Quebec (Gauthier and Aubry 1996), the final preparations are being made for the launch of a new atlas. Fieldwork for the second Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Quebec will start this coming spring, and will be conducted over at least the next five years. This ambitious new project will provide an up-to-date picture of the status of the bird species nesting in Quebec, and will document the changes that have occurred over the last quarter of a century.

The main aim of the forthcoming project, is to map the current distribution and relative abundance of all the bird species breeding south of 50°30' N. This area, which corresponds to that covered by the first atlas, comprises 5,000 10-km (100 km<sup>2</sup>) survey squares. In addition, the new atlas also intends to collect important information concerning the distribution of birds nesting in northern Quebec, about which relatively little is known. However, this will be a monumental task, as it involves adding a further 11,000 survey squares to the 5,000 located in southern Quebec. Nevertheless, the impact that climate change is likely to have on the distribution of bird species, particularly those nesting in the north, more than justifies the target of surveying the whole of the province.



The Regroupement QuébecOiseaux, the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, and Bird Studies Canada are ensuring the coordination of the atlas. Michel Robert is the atlas coordinator, and is assisted by Benoit Laliberté. In addition, several other people, working behind the scenes, provide the necessary support to guarantee the smooth running of the project.

The abovementioned partners hope that a large number of bird watchers from across Quebec, and elsewhere, will collaborate in this huge undertaking. If you would like to learn more about the atlas project, or to participate, we invite you to visit the website on [www.atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca](http://www.atlas-oiseaux.qc.ca).

### **The first Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Quebec is now available on DVD**

*The Breeding Birds of Quebec: Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Southern Quebec* is the principal reference work on the birds nesting in Quebec. A bilingual DVD version was recently published to meet the continued demand for the French edition (Gauthier and Aubry 1995) that has been out of print for a number of years. If you would like to obtain a copy of the DVD (\$19.95 plus taxes, postage and packaging), you can do so via [www.quebecoiseaux.org](http://www.quebecoiseaux.org), or by telephoning the Regroupement QuébecOiseaux directly at 1-888-647-3289.

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The BC Breeding Bird Atlas is entering its third of five years. Over 1000 individuals have signed up and the project has received about 100,000 records including breeding evidence for most of the 315 or so breeding species in BC. The atlas team is assisting teams and individuals to get to remote areas of the province. The project is a partnership between 7 organizations led by Bird Studies Canada and modelled after the highly successful Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas. Data can be downloaded from the Nature Counts web site ([www.naturecounts.ca](http://www.naturecounts.ca)) or by contacting the atlas office at: (604-940-4672) or at [rbutler@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:rbutler@bsc-eoc.org). To learn more go to the web site at [www.birdatlas.bc.ca](http://www.birdatlas.bc.ca).

### **Join the Atlas!**

Anyone can participate in the Atlas. All you need is a pair of binoculars and some birdwatching experience or the desire to learn about birds. You need to be able to identify birds correctly but you do not need to be expert - all records are welcome. All data are entered on-line and the results will appear on this web site.

After you register to the Atlas, you will receive the instructions and forms necessary. You should also get in touch with the regional coordinator in the area(s) that you are interested.





### **The Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas**

The Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas is a citizen-science project of many partner organizations, including Environment Canada, Manitoba Conservation, Bird Studies Canada, Nature Manitoba, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Manitoba Hydro and The Manitoba Museum and others to engage Manitobans in gathering essential baseline data on the distribution and abundance of all bird species breeding in the province. There is a critical need for this data as Manitoba is one of the only Canadian provinces lacking a breeding bird atlas. Data on breeding birds is currently limited for most areas of Manitoba, especially the central and northern portions of the province.

The Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas has a three-phase mission: 1) to produce high quality data on all species of birds throughout the province; 2) to increase and strengthen the pool of active volunteers in ecosystem monitoring; and 3) to create a state-of-the-art living document with interactive features such as regularly updated web-based interactive mapping tools and regional species lists and with multiple applications including long-term monitoring and education.

Data will be collected from 2010 – 2014 following standardized protocols. The sampling design includes 14 administrative regions throughout the province and 6996 10km x 10km grid squares, following a UTM projection.

There are three main techniques for gathering data:

- 1) General atlassing: Over a five-year period, a volunteer or volunteers will complete at least 20 hours in an assigned 10km x 10km grid square. Observers locate birds present in the square and document their behavior using a series of predefined codes that indicate “possible breeding”, “probable breeding” or “confirmed breeding”. This data is used to determine the breeding distribution for all species and other products such as avian inventories.
- 2) Point counting: Skilled volunteers and field crews conduct 15 point counts in each grid square. A mixture of on-road and off-road sites are sampled. Point counts are five minutes in duration and of unlimited radius. This data is used to generate relative abundance contour maps and other analyses.
- 3) Casual observations: Additional observations can be added to the atlas database via the web site. This allows for observers who are traveling to and from atlassing locations to provide supplementary data, which generates breeding codes in the same fashion as general atlassing.

Specific guidelines on how observers should allocate their time, detailed protocols, data forms, square summary maps and other information for all three atlassing methods are available on the web site <http://www.birdatlas.mb.ca/>.

### **Volunteers Needed for the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas!**

The Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas needs many volunteers. To sign up, please contact

Dr. Christian Artuso, Bird Studies Canada - Manitoba Program Manager  
Box 24-200 Saulteaux Cr, Winnipeg, MB R3J 3W3  
Tel: 204-945-6816, Fax: 204-945-3077; e-mail: [cartuso@birdscanada.org](mailto:cartuso@birdscanada.org)



### Partners in Flight Releases Tri-National Vision

Reprinted from Bird Studies Canada E-newsletter, May 21, 2010

Bird Studies Canada is a member of Partners in Flight, a cooperative effort among numerous partners from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. On May 11, Partners in Flight released *Saving Our Shared Birds: Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation*, the first comprehensive conservation assessment of landbirds throughout North America.



The report is the latest effort by Partners in Flight to help species at risk, and to keep common birds common – its mission since 1990. Canada, Mexico, and the United States share 882 native landbird species, almost one-third of which depend for their survival on at least two of the countries each year.

“Improving the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of wild birds and their habitats is the core of Bird Studies Canada’s mission, and also represents a perfect fit with the work of Partners in Flight,” said George Finney, President of Bird Studies Canada. “BSC is pleased to have been involved in the preparation of this seminal report.”

To view *Saving Our Shared Birds: Partners in Flight Tri-National Vision for Landbird Conservation* and see a complete list of contributors to the report, visit the *Saving Our Shared Birds* website at <http://www.savingoursharedbirds.org/>.

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### Americas IBA Directory Launched

Reprinted from Bird Studies Canada E-newsletter, May 21, 2010

BirdLife International’s Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program has launched a conservation blueprint, the *Americas IBA Directory* (available at [http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/american\\_ibas/americas-ibas-downloads.html](http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/american_ibas/americas-ibas-downloads.html)). This publication identifies 2345 top-priority conservation sites in the Western Hemisphere’s 57 countries and territories, and provides a blueprint for policy makers to make informed decisions on habitat protection and restoration.

Important Bird Areas cover almost 8% of the land area of the Americas. Nearly a third of the sites are in fully protected areas, with another 20% enjoying partial protection. In Canada, nearly 600 IBAs have been identified.

Bird Studies and Nature Canada are leading a national effort to ramp up conservation, advocacy, and science work at Important Bird Areas in Canada (<http://www.ibacanada.ca/>). The groups are working with a network of partners and volunteers to increase the profile of IBAs, and gather defensible bird population data that can be used to track changes over time.

The IBA program has brought together thousands of supporters, and is attracting greater investment in biodiversity conservation.







## **Optics for the Tropics Supports Saving Our Shared Birds**

Joni Ellis, Director, Optics for the Tropics Inc.



Optics for the Tropics, Inc. is a charity organization providing quality binoculars to ornithologists and educators in the Caribbean and Latin America. In these regions resources for conservation, such as field guides and binoculars, are very limited. Our vision is two fold; to increase the resources needed to improve monitoring, inventory, research, management, and education regarding birds and their habitats, and to strengthen partnerships that work towards a comprehensive bird conservation effort.

Birds are important indicators of environmental health; they also provide valuable services such as seed dispersal, pollination and pest control. A majority of birds that face steep declines breed in the U.S. and Canada and winter in the southern U.S. and Mexico. Saving Our Shared Birds; A Tri-national Vision recognize the need for international partnerships supporting bird conservation. This new report outlines 42 common birds that have suffered steep declines over the past 40 years; resulting in the loss of 800 million birds and the services they provide. According to the report:

“More than 200 species comprising 83% of individual landbirds rely on habitats in all three countries. Tropical forests in Mexico provide critical nonbreeding habitat for close to 100 substantially shared migratory species. These same forests provide year-round habitats for 70% of species that are of high tri-national concern. Migrating birds depend on high-quality habitat for safe travel and refuelling stopovers between distant breeding and wintering homes. The clear lineages among birds and habitats compel us to work internationally for conservation of both migrants and residents.”

“Optics for the Tropics believes the Tri-national Agreement to be of such importance that we have decided to focus our efforts for the next two years on providing binoculars to Mexico. We will work closely with U.S. based international Joint Ventures and Regional Alliances that function as joint ventures in Mexico.” says Joni Ellis, Director.

You can help! US tax-deductible donations can be made at our web page using PayPal and a major credit card. Checks can also be mailed directly to Optics for the Tropics, Inc. All funds raised are leveraged by Eagle Optics who provide a 40/60 match.

To see more specifics about our accomplishments please view our annual report online at: [www.OpticsfortheTropics.org](http://www.OpticsfortheTropics.org). To view the Tri-national Vision for Landbird Conservation visit: [www.PartnersinFlight.org](http://www.PartnersinFlight.org).



### Another Bird Species at Risk in Canada

Reprinted from Bird Studies Canada E-newsletter, May 21, 2010

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has recommended that Bobolink be added to Canada's list of species at risk. It was also recommended that the status of Lewis's Woodpecker, last assessed by COSEWIC 10 years ago, be upgraded from Special Concern to Threatened, owing to population declines stemming from ongoing loss and degradation of its forest habitat. Two species (Whooping Crane and Acadian Flycatcher) were reconfirmed as Endangered, while Sprague's Pipit was reconfirmed as Threatened, and Flammulated Owl was reconfirmed as Special Concern.

Over 25% of the Bobolink's breeding range is in Canada. It met COSEWIC's criteria for Threatened status owing to significant population declines (88% since 1968) that are due to habitat loss and degradation, high levels of nest failure resulting from increasingly intensive agricultural operations, and threats faced on its wintering grounds in South America. A familiar species across eastern North America, the Bobolink joins a lengthy and growing list of other birds, plants, insects, and other wildlife that are designated as at risk and that depend on grassland habitats.

Jon McCracken, BSC's Director of National Programs, co-chairs COSEWIC's Birds Specialist Subcommittee. "The addition of a hitherto common species like the Bobolink is particularly worrisome, but perhaps should come as no great surprise. As with nearly every other grassland species in North America, the declines are widespread and severe."

Select this link [http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct7/sct7\\_3\\_15\\_e.cfm](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct7/sct7_3_15_e.cfm) to read COSEWIC's press release. More detailed information about all the species assessed at the COSEWIC meeting, including plants, insects, mollusks, amphibians, fishes, birds, and mammals, can be found on the COSEWIC website at [http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct0/index\\_e.cfm?#results](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/eng/sct0/index_e.cfm?#results).



Bobolink. Photo courtesy of David M. Bird.



### **Saving the Memory of the Roger Tory Peterson Studio**

Kathryn Stillwell Burton, 19 Boston Post Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371

In January, the Roger Tory Peterson studio went on sale in Old Lyme, Connecticut, where my husband and I have a house. The rather small building that housed the studio still contained many, many drawings, photos and memorabilia of his long career. I immediately put together a "Friends Of Roger Tory Peterson" group and offered a bid. Someone else won the bid, although we had offered more.

Although it was never used as a house, the other bidder intends to use it as a residence. I was there several times before the sale and met the Peterson

daughters, and I will admit, on the day the studio started to be cleared out (at the request of the new owner), I went dumpster diving, as the daughters looked on, and found what might be called "wonderful things," as full of beauty and value as that found in the Egyptian pyramids of gold of a different sought.



Double crested Cormorant pair display. Photo by Gail Fraser.

My original thought was to create a "Friends " group that would keep Roger's name before the public, but after the sale, that seemed impossible, so I thought another way to try it. I visited the Mystic Aquarium and Science Center and suggested a replica of the studio by using photos and videos. The president of the Aquarium and Center accepted the idea and a group was sent to accomplish as much as possible in the few days left before the new family was set to arrive. A huge moving truck picked everything up, after many photos and a video were created. Dr. Peterson would not be forgotten. The online studio exhibit will be completed in the next few years along with renovations to Roger Tory Peterson Penguin Exhibit at the Aquarium.

The Mystic Aquarium and Science Center gets 750,000 tourists every year. This is about 749,996 more people than potentially would have traveled to the small studio on a beautiful winding road, rather remote. The recognition, that now the man who saved more bird species since Noah would not be forgotten and in fact would continue influencing young people through the planned programs, made me smile.



## Research Photos Sought for Upcoming Book

I am looking for photos for an upcoming book called, "Being a Bird in North America". Specifically, I want photos of birds in situations in which it was your research that allowed you to get the photos. As long as the bird is reasonably identifiable in the photo, I'm interested. Some examples:

- young bird,
- super close-up,
- bird in net, trap, hand,
- nest with young and/or eggs,
- young bird,
- dead or sick bird,
- taking blood for DNA sampling.

If in doubt, send it.

Any species that breeds with some regularity (or used to, e.g. Northern Jacana, American Flamingo) in Canada or the U.S. (not including Hawaii) is of interest. No exotics please.

In addition, I'm looking for a good photo of a breeding male for the species listed below. If you have any of those, please send them along. If I publish at least one of your photos, you get your name next to the photo in the book, plus a 50-word bio.

If you are interested, please contact me at [robalvo1@gmail.com](mailto:robalvo1@gmail.com) or by phone at (613) 236-0660 and I'll call you right back. Sending up to 10 megabytes by e-mail is fine.

Thank you.

Robert Alvo, MSc Conservation Biologist, Author.

The following list is in updated AOU order down to Lawrence's Goldfinch, and then starts over with Mountain Quail.

Canvasback  
Leach's Storm-Petrel  
Brandt's Cormorant  
Hook-billed Kite  
Snail Kite  
Mississippi Kite  
Broad-winged Hawk  
Gray Hawk  
Short-tailed Hawk  
King Rail  
Common Ringed Plover  
Eurasian Dotterel  
Red-necked Stint  
Little Gull  
Aleutian Tern  
Elegant Tern  
Pomarine Jaeger  
Marbled Murrelet  
Xantus's Murrelet  
White-crowned Pigeon  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Vaux's Swift  
Lewis's Woodpecker

Red-cockaded  
Woodpecker  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Alder Flycatcher  
Willow Flycatcher  
Least Flycatcher  
Dusky Flycatcher  
Pacific-slope Flycatcher  
Cassin's Kingbird  
Thick-billed Kingbird  
Gray Kingbird  
Rose-throated Becard  
Northern Shrike  
Black-capped Vireo  
Plumbeous Vireo  
Cassin's Vireo  
Blue-headed Vireo  
Hutton's Vireo  
Tree Swallow  
Violet-green Swallow  
Bank Swallow  
Cave Swallow  
Carolina Wren  
Sedge Wren

Arctic Warbler  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher  
Wood Thrush  
Bendire's Thrasher  
California Thrasher  
Le Conte's Thrasher  
Red-throated Pipit  
Sprague's Pipit  
Olive Warbler  
Virginia's Warbler  
Lucy's Warbler  
Tropical Parula  
Hermit Warbler  
Grace's Warbler  
Prairie Warbler  
Louisiana Waterthrush  
MacGillivray's Warbler  
Gray-crowned  
Yellowthroat  
White-collared Seedeater  
California Towhee  
Five-striped Sparrow  
Black-chinned Sparrow





Lark Bunting  
Henslow's Sparrow  
Le Conte's Sparrow  
McCown's Longspur  
Lapland Longspur  
Chestnut-collared  
Longspur  
Varied Bunting  
Dickcissel  
Tricolored Blackbird  
White-winged Crossbill  
Lesser Goldfinch  
Lawrence's Goldfinch  
Mountain Quail  
Gunnison Sage-Grouse  
Manx Shearwater

Ashy Storm-Petrel  
Black Storm-Petrel  
Northern Jacana  
Kittlitz's Murrelet  
Ancient Murrelet  
Cassin's Auklet  
Whiskered Auklet  
Red-billed Pigeon  
Antillean Nighthawk  
Berylline Hummingbird  
Lucifer Hummingbird  
Nuttall's Woodpecker  
Olive-sided Flycatcher  
Greater Pewee  
Buff-breasted Flycatcher  
Dusky-capped Flycatcher

Gray Vireo  
Tamaulipas Crow  
Gray-headed Chickadee  
Juniper Titmouse  
California Gnatcatcher  
Black-capped Gnatcatcher  
Crissal Thrasher  
Eastern Yellow Wagtail  
Colima Warbler  
Red-faced Warbler  
Bachman's Sparrow  
Saltmarsh Sparrow  
McKay's Bunting  
Audubon's Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole

### Call for Short-eared Owl Feathers



Short-eared Owl wing feathers. Photo by Geoff Holroyd.

Kristen Keyes, under the supervision of Dr. Marcel Gahbauer (Migration Research Foundation) and Dr. David Bird (McGill University), is investigating Short-eared Owl movement patterns in North America. She is asking for feather samples for stable isotope analysis from anyone who finds road-kills or who may experience incidental encounters through banding or other research. From living owls, a small sample of vane tissue (i.e. 1-2 cm<sup>2</sup>) from the lagging, proximal edge of a primary or secondary feather (see image below) would be ideal, so as to limit impacts on flight. If only a single generation of feathers is apparent, a sample from P1 would be ideal for standardization. If a molt limit is obvious, samples from all apparent generations of feathers are needed, as is photo documentation, as this will allow for the determination of up to three previous summer locations. Take one sample from each age of feathers, balancing the

samples from the left and right wing. Samples from juveniles will be used to verify the Short-eared Owl isotopic signature against existing isotope maps, and while P1 is preferable, the age of the owl may dictate that a body contour feather be collected instead. However, in the case that an owl is found dead, a complete wing would be preferable to help with further investigation of the Short-eared Owl molt pattern. If you are interested in providing samples for this study, please contact Kristen ([kristen@migrationresearch.org](mailto:kristen@migrationresearch.org)) who will arrange for permits and shipping.

Additional information can be found at  
<http://www.migrationresearch.org/research/shortear/project.html>



1<sup>ST</sup> WORLD SEABIRD CONFERENCE  
Seabirds: Linking the Global Oceans

## 1<sup>ST</sup> WORLD SEABIRD CONFERENCE, 7 – 11 SEPTEMBER 2010, VICTORIA, CANADA

Abstract Deadline: 5 March 2010

Early Registration: 15 February – 31 May 2010

Regular Registration: 1 June – 15 August 2010

Late Registration: 16 August – 11 September 2010

Registration is now open for the 1<sup>st</sup> World Seabird Conference, to be held in beautiful Victoria, Canada, 7 – 11 September 2010. Through a strong conference program, the goal of this conference is to provide a global blueprint for seabird science and conservation over the next decade. The conference will feature four Primary Symposia, nine Special Paper Sessions, 10 Workshops, and Open Paper and Poster Sessions. Meeting details are at <http://www.worldseabirdconference.com/>.

You can help us make this possible in many different ways. Please consider supporting the conference as follows with links on the conference website (link above):

- Sign up to be on the World Seabird community distribution list
- Register to attend the conference
- Submit an abstract (deadline is March 5th)
- Donate to the WSC community to support student participation in the conference
- Exhibit at the conference
- Sponsor the conference

Professional seabird groups and societies are active around the world, but there has yet to be a single international meeting to host seabird scientists, conservationists and policy-makers. The 1<sup>st</sup> World Seabird Conference is led by the Pacific Seabird Group and 25 other seabird and research organisations from around the globe. It will bring together 500 - 600 participants from over 30 countries.



Two Black Guillemots from Easy Bay Island, Nunavut.  
Photo by Lisha L. Berzins

Registration and accommodation information is available on the conference website. As you make your hotel arrangements, please consider that by staying at our conference hotel, you are helping us to keep meeting costs low by allowing us to meet our room block obligations. These savings allow us to offer conference travel bursaries. Assistance in finding someone to share your hotel room is available via ticking a check box during the registration process.

Our conference program features an exciting array of workshops, symposia, paper sessions, field trips and social events. We look forward to seeing you in Victoria!

Sincerely,

Patrick O'Hara, Chair, Local Organising Committee, 1<sup>st</sup> World Seabird Conference



**Society of Canadian Ornithologists**  
**Soci  t   des ornithologistes du Canada**

**RENEWAL / APPLICATION FORM**

This form is provided for you to use when renewing, and to post or forward to others who might be interested in joining. Please feel free to renew or join for more than one year if desired: this will cut down on administration and the need to send you reminders every year. Donations are also gratefully accepted (the SCO is a registered non-profit society and issues tax receipts). For more on the SCO, please visit our website <http://www.sco-soc.ca/>.

Renewal. \_\_\_\_\_ New member. \_\_\_\_\_

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All donors of \$10.00 or more will receive a receipt for tax purposes; sustaining members will receive a \$25.00 receipt for tax purposes for each year of sustaining membership, and life members will receive a \$250.00 receipt. The SCO is a registered non-profit society and issues tax receipts.

Please make cheques payable to **The Society of Canadian Ornithologists.**

Mail to:                              **Th  r  se Beaudet**  
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   **St-Jean de l'  le d'Orl  ans (QC)**  
   **Canada G0A 3W0**  
   **beaudet.lamoth  @sympatico.ca**



## Society of Canadian Ornithologists Société des ornithologistes du Canada

### RENOUVELLEMENT / ADHÉSION

Ce formulaire peut être utilisé lors d'un renouvellement ou pour adhérer à la SOC. N'hésitez pas à le transmettre à d'autres ou à l'afficher pour assurer une plus grande diffusion et de nouvelles adhésions. Les renouvellements et les adhésions pour plus d'une année sont privilégiés; cela réduit les frais d'administration et l'envoi de rappels annuels. Les dons sont acceptés (la SOC a le statut d'organisation à but non lucratif et peut émettre des reçus pour fins d'impôt). Pour en savoir plus sur la SOC, vous pouvez visiter le site <http://www.sco-soc.ca/>.

Renouvellement. \_\_\_\_\_ Nouveau membre. \_\_\_\_\_

Nom \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse \_\_\_\_\_ Ville \_\_\_\_\_ Code postal \_\_\_\_\_

Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Courriel \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation : \_\_\_\_\_

#### Catégorie de membres (en dollars canadiens)

Etudiant:	_____ ans @ \$10.00 par an	Total= _____
Régulier:	_____ ans @ \$25.00 par an	Total= _____
De soutien:	_____ ans @ \$50.00 par an	Total= _____
À l'extérieur du Canada:	_____ ans @ \$35.00 par an	Total= _____
Membre à vie:	un paiement de \$500.00	Total= _____

Dons : Prix commémoratif Jamie Smith de tutorat en ornithologie \_\_\_\_\_

Prix Doris Huestis Speirs \_\_\_\_\_

Bourses pour étudiants : \_\_\_\_\_

- Bourses Taverner \_\_\_\_\_

- Bourse Fred Cooke \_\_\_\_\_

Toutes les personnes qui font un don de \$10.00 et plus recevront un reçu pour fins d'impôt; les membres de soutien en recevront un de \$25.00 par année de participation, et les membres à vie recevront un seul reçu de \$250.00. La SOC a le statut d'organisation à but non lucratif et émet des reçus pour fins d'impôt.

*S.V.P. Faire les chèques au nom de la **Société des Ornithologistes du Canada**.*

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**Society of Canadian Ornithologists/  
Société des Ornithologistes du Canada**

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**WEBSITE: [www.sco-soc.ca/index.html](http://www.sco-soc.ca/index.html)**

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